

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SA

SUBJECT: INCREASED RESIGNATIONS AMONG YOUNG SAUDI OFFICIALS

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED  
IN DAILY AL-RIYADH, AUGUST 17, 1976: BEGIN QUOTE:

A. THE SAUDI GENERAL PERSONNEL BUREAU IS CURRENTLY  
STUDYING THE QUESTION OF INCREASED RESIGNATIONS AMONG  
SAUDI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THESE RESIGNATIONS INCLUDE SOME  
OF THE BEST SAUDI OFFICIALS IN TERMS OF EDUCATION, CHARACTER AND  
CULTURE.

B. A NUMBER OF THESE YOUNG OFFICIALS TOLD AL-RIYADH  
THAT THEY RESIGNED BECAUSE FOREIGNERS ARE GIVEN BETTER TERMS  
ALTHOUGH THESE FOREIGNERS ARE IN NO WAY BETTER THAN THEIR  
SAUDI COUNTERPARTS IN TERMS OF EDUCATION OR PRACTICAL  
EXPERIENCE.

C. IN ADDITION TO HIS HUGE SALARY, THE FOREIGNER  
GETS A HOUSING ALLOWANCE AND A MEDICAL TREATMENT  
ALLOWANCE WHICH COVERS PHYSICIAN'S FEE, THE PRICE OF  
MEDICINES, AND CAR TRANSPORT. THE FOREIGNER'S CHILDREN  
ARE SENT TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE IN  
SPECIAL CARS SUPPLIED BY THE GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION,  
THE GOVERNMENT PAYS HUGE SUMS FOR FURNISHING THEIR  
HOMES AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT.

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D. THE RESIGNING SAUDI YOUTHS ADD THAT THEY DO NOT ENJOY ANY OF THESE PRIVILEGES. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF A PROBLEM WHICH IS INCREASINGLY PLAGUING THE SAUDI BUREAUCRACY. YOUNG WESTERN EDUCATED SAUDIS RETURN TO THE KINGDOM, ASSUME POSITIONS WITHIN THE BUREAUCRACY, AND GRADUALLY REALIZE THAT THE FOREIGNERS WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THEM ARE EARNING CONSIDERABLY MORE, AND MANY UNEDUCATED SAUDIS WORKING IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE ACCUMULATING WEALTH AND INFLUENCE AT A RATE UN-ATTAINABLE BY A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE.

3. SAG REALIZES THAT IT MUST RAISE GOVERNMENT SALARIES SIGNIFICANTLY OR THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE. ON THE OTHER HAND, INFLATION CONSIDERATIONS ARE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE. FOUR MONTHS AGO, PRINCE FAHD, SPEAKING FOR THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, ANNOUNCED A FREEZE ON WAGES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. THIS WAS PART OF A SERIES OF MEASURES AIMED AT CURBING THE INFLATIONARY SPIRAL.

4. NEVERTHELESS, INFLATION CONTINUES UNABATED, AND THE PROBLEM OF SAUDI GOVERNMENT RESIGNATION WORSENS. THE OLDER SAUDIS LOOK OVER THEIR SHOULDER AT THE NOT SO DISTANT PAST WHEN "SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS" WAS NOT PART OF THEIR VOCABULARY AND WONDER IF THEIR NEW-FOUND WEALTH IS REALLY MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR THEM.  
PORTER

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